

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A folding perimeter barrier for a body of water, particularly a swimming pool (1), said barrier being maneuverable between a deployed position in which the barrier encloses the pool (1), and a folded position in which the barrier is collapsed to provide access to the pool (1), said barrier being principally composed of a frame equipped with means of anchoring to a support (4) bordering said pool (1) and a fencing panel (3) pivotably articulated to said frame in order to be set upright in the deployed position and folded down toward said support (4) in the folded position, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is principally composed of at least one pair of panels (2, 3) articulated to each other, namely said fencing panel (3) pivotably articulated to a ground panel (2) that constitutes the frame and that rests flatly on said support (4) to form a walkway around said pool (1) when said barrier is in deployed position, both of said panels (2, 3) being of openwork construction comprising slats (5, 6) separated by openings (7, 8), the slats (5, 6) of one panel (2,3) being opposite the openings (&, 8) of the other panel (2, 3), such that when the barrier is in folded position, the slats (5, 6) of the one panel (2, 3) are seated inside the openings (7, 8) of the other panel (2, 3) to form a deck around said pool (1).

Claim 2 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ground panel (2) is formed of a box (9) constituted by struted profiles bearing slats (6), said box (9) forming a sole plate for said fencing panel (3), to which the latter is articulated.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in~~ of claim 2,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein it comprises at least one folding brace (11) whose ends are
respectively articulated to one and the other of said panels (2, 3), said box (9) of said
ground panel (2) housing said strut (2) when said barrier is in folded position.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in any one of the~~
~~preceding claims, characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein it is equipped with locking
means for locking it at least in the deployed position, if not the folded position as well.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in~~ of claim 4,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said locking means are constituted by strikers disposed at
the ends of said barrier.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in any one of the~~
~~preceding claims, characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein it is composed of a plurality of
abutted panels (2, 3) attached to one another by fastening devices.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in any one of the~~
~~preceding claims, characterized in that~~ of claim 1 wherein said barrier can be operated
manually to change it back and forth between the folded and deployed positions.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in any one of claims~~

~~of claim 1 to 6, characterized in that~~ wherein said barrier can be operated by drive means to change it back and forth between the folded and deployed positions.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in~~ of claim 8,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said drive means are constituted by at least one power cylinder (11) in articulated engagement at its ends respectively with said ground panel (2) and with said fencing panel (3), said power cylinder (11) being drivable by a hydraulic unit whose operation is placed under the dependence of control means.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in claims~~ of claim 3
~~and 9, characterized in that~~ wherein said brace is constituted by said power cylinder (11).

Claim 11 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in either of claims~~
of claim 9 and 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said panels (2, 3) are equipped with ramps (14, 16) for guiding said power cylinder (11).

Claim 12 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in~~ of claim 11,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said power cylinder (11) being oriented horizontally in the retracted position corresponding to the folded position of the barrier, a first inclined ramp (14) is provided on said ground panel (2) to cause the power cylinder (11) to straighten up until it is stopped at the bottom of a second ramp (16) carried by said fencing panel (3), such that the outward telescoping of said power cylinder (11) causes it to straighten

up and bear against said fencing panel (3), thereby raising it into the deployed-barrier position.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in any one of claims of claim 9 to 12, characterized in that~~ wherein said control means comprise switches that can be operated by the use to actuate the hydraulic unit, and sensors detecting the end of travel of the fencing panel.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in~~ of claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said end-of-travel sensors comprise sensors detecting the transmission and reception of a signal, so as to interrupt the operation of the hydraulic unit if the signal is breached.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in~~ of claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said sensors constitute safety sensors, so as to interrupt the operation of said power cylinder (11) if the signal is breached unexpectedly.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in any one of claims of claim 10 to 15, characterized in that~~ wherein said power cylinder (11) is a double-acting power cylinder, so as to hold the barrier in any arbitrary position when the movement of said power cylinder (11) is interrupted.

Claim 17 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in claims~~ of claim 4

~~and 13, characterized in that~~ wherein said locking means are constituted by motorized strikers, which are actuated concomitantly with the actuation of said power cylinder (11) by means of switches that can be operated by the user.

Claim 18 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in any one of claims of claim 9 to 17, characterized in that~~ wherein said control means for said power cylinder (11) comprise dynamometric means so as to interrupt the movement of said power cylinder (11) should an obstacle be present in the path of said fencing panel (3) while it is in motion.

Claim 19 (currently amended) The folding barrier ~~as in any one of claims of claim 10 to 17, characterized in that~~ wherein the means of anchoring said frame to said support (4) are bolt-type means serving to fix said ground panel (2) to said support (4).